

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having melanoma which has been surgically removed, which comprises administering to such a patient a therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time;

wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered is selected from the group consisting of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b and about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a treatment-naive patient.

Claim 4 (Original). The method of claim 3 wherein the treatment-naive patient is one having newly diagnosed melanoma.

Claim 5 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is a treatment-experienced patient.

Claim 6 (Original). The method of claim 5 wherein the treatment experienced patient is intolerant to interferon alpha or resistant to interferon alpha.

Claim 7 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the time period is at least about 24 months.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered is about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 10 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha administered is about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 11 (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which has been surgically removed which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha once a week for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time;

wherein the effective amount of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered once a week is selected from the group consisting of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b and about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 12 (Currently amended). The method of claim 11 wherein the effective amount of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha administered once a week is about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 13 (Currently amended). The method of claim 11 wherein the effective amount of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha administered once a week is about 200 micrograms to 250 micrograms of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2a.

Claim 14 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein the time period is at least about 100 weeks.

Claim 15 (Currently amended). A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which comprises administering to such a patient

about 3.0 ~~micro-grams/kg~~ micrograms/kg to about 9.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for a time period sufficient to increase the progression-free survival time.

Claim 16 (Original). The method of claim 15 wherein the time period is about 100 weeks.

Claim 17 (Currently amended). The method of claim 15 wherein about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

Claims 18-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently amended). The method of claim 17 wherein about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

Claim 22 (Currently amended). The method of claim 21 wherein about 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

Claim 23 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 22 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and  
then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

Claim 24 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 23 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

Claim 25 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 24 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of

~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 26 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 25 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 27 (Currently amended). The method of claim 12 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 28 (Currently amended). The method of claim 27 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 29 (Currently amended). The method of claim 28 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is about 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 30 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 29 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and  
then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.

Claim 31 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 30 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

- Claim 32 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 31 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.
- Claim 33 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 32 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.
- Claim 34 (Currently amended). The method of claim 9 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.
- Claim 35 (Currently amended). The method of claim 34 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b is about 5.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b.
- Claim 36 (Currently amended). The method of claim 35 wherein the therapeutically effective weekly dose of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is about 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b.
- Claim 37 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 36 further comprising a dose reduction step such that 6.0 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for eight weeks, and  
then 3.0 or less micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> Interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week for the remainder of a five year treatment period.
- Claim 38 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 37 wherein the dose reduction step is to 3 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub>

interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 39 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 38 further comprising a second dose reduction step to 2 micrograms/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.

Claim 40 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 39 further comprising a third dose reduction step to 1 microgram/kg of ~~pegylated~~ PEG<sub>12000</sub> interferon alpha-2b once a week for the remainder of the five year treatment period.